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Re Applic of	Steven Shyng-Tsong T. Chen
Docket No.	FIS9-2004-0211-US1
Serial No.	10/711,145
Filing Date	08/27/2004
Attorney	H. Daniel Schnurmann

Attached: Response to Restriction Requirement**PLEASE DELIVER TO:**

EXAMINER: Victor A. Mandala

ART UNIT: 2826

PHONE NO: 571-272-1918

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**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
MACHINES CORPORATION**

Intellectual Property Law
East Fishkill Facility
2070 Route 52
Hopewell Junction
New York 12533-6531

Fax: 845-892-6363
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Nicole Barrese 11/21/05
Signature & Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	
In re application of: Steven Shyng-Tsong T. Chen, et al.	Date: November 21, 2005
Serial Number: 10/711,145	Examiner: Victor A. Mandala
Filed: 8/27/2004	Group Art Unit: 2826
Title: Maintaining Uniform CMP Hard Mask Thickness.	IBM Corporation D/18G, B/321, Zip 482 2070 Route 52 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533-6531

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 04, 2005.

The Examiner in the aforementioned Office Action has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121, stating that the claims belong to:

GROUP I, Claims 17-20, drawn to a semiconductor device, and

GROUP II, Claims 1-16, drawn to a method of forming an interconnect structure.

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Applicants traverse the aforementioned Restriction Requirement for the following reason:

Applicants submit that the claims as filed are related as a process of fabricating a product. The Restriction Requirement justifies the restriction by vaguely stating that "the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different products", but fails to list any such "other and materially different products". Thus, Applicants deem that both Groups I and II are one and the same, and they do not fit the criteria for restriction. Accordingly, it is believed that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Notwithstanding the foregoing arguments, Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of GROUP II, consisting of Claims 1-16 drawn to the method, and withdraw from consideration the claims forming GROUP I, as being drawn to non-elected invention, without prejudice to the Applicants' right to file a Divisional or Continuation or Continuation-in-Part Patent Application for the withdrawn claims.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN SHYNG-TSONG T. CHEN, ET AL.

By:



H. Daniel Schnurmann, Agent

Registration No. 35,791

Tel. No. (845) 894 2481

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